

EDAD 639
Chadron State College
Forum Discussion – Chapter 1
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August 2014

What type of leadership style would best describe you as an administrator?

“Excellent schools will not happen without exemplary leadership” (Hackman, Schmitt-Oliver, & Tracey, 2002, pg. 1). Throughout organizations such as schools, business, industry, and athletic teams, the outcomes achieved by the individuals of those various organizations can most commonly be attributed to the profound model or lack of leadership demonstrated. Being in an educational profession, leadership is a key quality that can affect many aspects of the educational world such as students, staff, buildings, and the community. Not only can positive and effective leadership have a tremendous affect on a district wide level, the positive leadership of teachers in the classroom has been linked to improved student achievement, improved school culture, and increases in professional growth and job satisfaction. According to the Wallace Foundation: The School Principal as Leader (2013), “leadership is second only to classroom instruction among school related factors that affect student learning in school.”

When thinking about leadership and the qualities that leaders have that make them successful, how is leadership fostered and promoted among others? How can great educational leaders and models share what they have learned with the next generation of school leaders? Reflecting on the upcoming administrative practicum and learning experiences that I am anticipating to participate in throughout this course, the selection of strong and positive educational leaders in which to learn from is critical to the success of the experience. I firmly believe that the strength of my mentors will have a profound impact on my overall internship and learning experience. Strong leaders create strong leaders and Hackman, Schmitt-Oliver, & Tracey (2002) state, “the core purpose of the internship is to assure the leadership required to support schools” (pg. 11-12).

In order to gain a better individual insight on my leadership style, I completed an online quiz that confirmed what I had originally perceived as my style of leadership. Prior to the quiz, I had perceived my style of leadership as collaborative in nature. Being a collaborative leader, I often try to include the team in which I am working with in discussions and the decision-making process. According to Hoyle et.al. (2002) “Providing collaborative opportunities should represent a deliberate effort to build a different kind of school environment, one that enriches teachers and expands pupil achievement” (pg.44). Deliberate actions of school leaders can relate to making sure that everyone feels needed and is connected to our team is vital to the importance, dynamics, and success of the team. When I completed the quiz entitled: What’s your leadership style from <http://psychology.about.com/library/quiz/bl-leadershipquizbc.htm> (2014), I found that I was a participative leader. One of the key statements in the analysis/description of my leadership style was, “no one leader can be an expert in all

areas.” As an instructional leader, it is important to have an understanding of the big picture of the vision and how to support and include the individuals that work together to accomplish the established vision and goals.

Effective leadership in schools is of the utmost importance in the age of accountability, high stakes testing, and the efforts to improving student achievement. There is no time to stand on the sidelines and wait for leadership to come to you. Aspiring educational leaders must understand that, “novice school leaders no longer have the luxury of a honeymoon period to acclimate to their new positions, as a form of on-the-job-training” (Hackman, Schmitt-Oliver, & Tracey, 2002, pg. 6-7). Schools, students, teachers, and staff deserve positive and effective leadership from day one. Throughout this course and the learning opportunities that I am looking forward to participating in, my goal is to develop into a more effective leader that can have a more positive and profound impact on others throughout my educational setting.

References:

Hackmann, D.G., Schmitt-Oliver, D.M., & Tracy, J.C. (2002). *The standards-based administrative internship*. Lanham, MD: The Scarecrow Press, Inc.

Hoyle, J.R., English, F.W., & Steffy, B.E. (2002). *Skills for successful 21st century school leaders: Standards for peak performers*. New York, NY: American Association of School Administrators.

The Wallace Foundation. (2013). *The school principal as leader: Guiding schools to better teaching and learning*.

What's your leadership style? (2014). Retrieved August 24, 2014, from <http://psychology.about.com/library/quiz/bl-leadershipquizbc.htm>